

DEADLY TREE DISEASE MAY INVADE THE SOUTH

White Pine Blister Has Wrought Havoc in New England and Other Parts of North.

HEADED IN THIS DIRECTION

History and Habits of the Dread Visitor That May Cost the South Millions of Dollars—Only One Way to Meet It.

The chestnut blight, which, according to the estimates made five years ago, had run to that time damaged the chestnut trees in America to the extent of \$25,000,000, has now spread itself over the United States, and foresters think they foresee the total extinction of the chestnut tree. At the time of the first appearance of the blight in Northern Virginia steps were taken by the United States government, with the aid of the state, to head it off. These efforts were partially successful, or at least the tree disease was prevented from spreading to the central and southern parts of Virginia. However a many chestnut trees in this State were killed, and now the United States government is warning that other tree diseases are lurking in the forests of the country and moving southward.

The people are being told that the damage done by the boll weevil scales and the Hessian fly to cultivated crops will probably be equaled by the damage now being done to the forest trees. New England has spent millions trying to drive out the gipsy and brown-tail moth, but while much good has been done, there is still danger that many of the vast forests which have been successfully protected, will be wiped out. The fact that the United States and the Federal government did not take hold of this fight when they did, and year after year spent time and money spraying every leaf, today there might not have been 100 mature trees in all New England. Such say the government officials, who are investigating matters, is an indication of what may be done by the maladies now threatening American forests.

THE WHITE PINE BLISTER—THE PHASER'S ENEMY

According to Henry G. Stebbins, chief of the forest service of the United States Department of Agriculture, a new disease, called the white pine blister, because its first attack in this country was made on the white pines of New England, threatens to do more damage than anything that has ever yet attacked American forest trees. In the New York Sun he writes that, according to present indications, this disease, which is not yet in any way stamped in its ravages, to extent of \$50,000,000, New England has already suffered, and may continue to suffer the worse, but the white pine blisters is making its way towards the South, and unless something is done to head it off, will ere long be doing its destructive work in the pine forests of Virginia and all of the South.

A New England forester who spoke on this subject before the American Forestry Association at its recent meeting in Washington, told his audience that the disease came from Central Europe by way of England to Europe, where it got a good start before this government found a way to stop it. The loss of the white pine to the timber trade in the white-pine country, when the disease reached England, the British government was prepared to apply a remedy, and the consequence was that the loss was not much over £1,000,000 a year. At this rate, estimating the value of white pine products at \$60,000,000 annually, America would lose \$6,000,000 a year.

This would be confined to the white pine forests of New England, and, of course, it will be many times greater if the blisters gets a strong foothold in the pine forests of Virginia and the immense yellow pine areas further south, for, according to the government authorities, seem to indicate. An American climate, and there is grave danger that it will thrive even more in the Southern climate. Therefore, the loss will be much greater than £1,000,000.

HOW THE DISEASE SPREADS INTO NEW ENGLAND

In late years over 100,000 acres in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey have been planted in white pine. The blisters first appeared in 1896, and was traced to two-year-old imported trees set out in 1898. These trees had the disease from infancy, but it had been discovered that the trees had been imported from a foreign country, and the trees are about three years old. It was found that the imported trees infected with the blisters had been scattered all over these States, and therefore almost share in the right against it. All of the States made large appropriations, and every spring since the blisters first appeared have been examined, and every infected tree has been destroyed. The Federal government passed the plant quarantine act in 1912, thus stopping the importation of infected trees, but this was after those already imported had done their worst.

HISTORY AND HABITS OF THE PINE DESTROYER

The history of the disease in the country and its habits, so to speak, as given by the New England foresters to the convention in Washington, will interest the lumbermen and owners of

forests in Virginia and the South, and after a study of the same they may be better able to keep the disease from invading their forests.

Like the wheat rust, the white blister has two entirely different hosts—the winter spores are blown from the pine and gooseberry leaves, upon which they are deposited, to various parts of the trees in the fall. There they germinate, but there is no visible sign of infection for from one to many years. Then the bark begins to thicken. In the spring the tree is badly swollen, and the bark bursts, scattering the yellow spring spores. At the stage of maturity there is very conspicuous. These spores are deposited about some of them falling upon our root and gooseberry bushes, which are just beginning to leaf out. Here they germinate and infect the leaves, in twelve days or more new fruits are formed in these orange pustules, and the disease spreads to the lower branches of the diseased tree. The spores then become rounded, infect other leaves, and thus the disease spreads rapidly on the current of gooseberry bushes. Toward fall, hornlike outgrowths are produced in some of the pustules, and these in turn produce the winter spores, which are capable of surviving the winter in the soil.

It is believed that under the individual action of the ruler which governs national or individual action. Penalties is the strength of law, as a law without a penalty is not a law. The enforcement of law requires physical force. The sufficient claim that moral force ought to supplement physical force. Possibly so, but history, recording the actions of man for thousands of years, fails to record a single instance of such a presumption that it always will.

The action of sovereign governments is enforced by large standing armies. But in the United States one of the first principles is that there shall be no large standing army. This is made possible by giving the people representation, and as a consequence the people have the responsibility of enforcing their own laws.

Without the capability of enforcing the law would be a decided injustice upon those who would be obliged to enforce the law, and to exempt any class of voters from the enforcement of their own made law would be a violation of another basic principle of our government.

Question: Are these women who are clamoring for the vote, able to enforce their own decrees?

Louisville, Ky., February 5.

"SHIN PLASTERS" USED

Fractional Bills Now Are Becoming Quite Common Through-out Germany.

BERLIN, February 10.—The Taegeszeitung, of fractional bills used those used in the United States in the Civil War, are becoming quite common in Germany. The government so far has issued no such bills, but they are put in circulation by chambers of commerce, trade organizations and municipalities to relieve the shortage of small change, which is making itself felt more and more.

Copper and silver coins have almost entirely disappeared from circulation and silver 20 and 50 pfennig pieces also are becoming very scarce.

FORMER ALEROY GOING TO FRONT.

LONDON, February 19.—Lord Arthur Oliver Armitage, former Vice-Admiral of the Royal Navy, and one of the highest Masons in England, at the age of fifty-eight, has again donned the uniform and been made a Lieutenant-colonel of the Lesther Loyal Battalion. His son has been to the front for some little time, and his father will leave in the near future.

FORBIDS BOYS SMOKING.

HAMBURG, February 1.—The commander of the Ninth German Army Corps has issued an order forbidding all boys under sixteen years of age in Hamburg and the surrounding villages and towns to smoke. The general declaration states tobacco supplies are needed for the soldiers in the field and the civilian smokers at home.

WAERS AGAINST ECONOMIC WAR.

BERLIN, February 10.—In a leading article maintaining that there must be no economic war after the present conflict, the Frankfurter Zeitung lays stress on the importance to Germany of a free world market and attacks those who dream of a Berlin-Bagdad railway or a new economic policy with Russia as compensation for it.

May Be Given Chance to Fight.

BERLIN, February 10.—By order of the Prussian Minister of Justice, the interior and War, there is to be an inquiry to discover what persons at present debarred from military service owing to judicial sentences can be offered the privilege of entering the army. Professional and habitual criminals are excluded.

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or any other convenient
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CORRESPONDENTS' VIEWS ON QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

**Senator Wendenburg's Opinion on Sex-
eance of Relations by This Gov-
ernment Upheld and Opposed.**

WOMAN SUFFRAGE DISCUSSED

The Basis of Order.

A Question for the Suffrage School

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—Good morning! I am a member of

good order, be it nationwide or relating

only to the individual order is

maintained by the enforcement of the

rules which govern national or individ-

ual action. Penalties is the strength

of law, as a law without a pen-

alty requires physical force.

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ment of their own made law would be

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of our government.

Personally, I would just as much

want to shoot down a German as an

Englishman. The United States has

fought England twice, and has never

so yet had war with Germany.

It would like to ask the Senator if

England's imminent attitude was ever

so great as to the citizens of a neu-

tral nation?

We all know that Germany

has violated international law,

and all international law.

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